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April 5, 2000 LB 1167A, 1167

clothes from the other home and do some of the work that would not be legal work but it's work that just needs to get done in some of these cases. The CASAs can do that sort of work and be very, very effective in doing that. But what has happened in the past is that you have courts that would have appointed those people, not because it was in the best interest of the children, but because they were trying to save money for the county, because the county board would come down and lean on their county judge and say, you know, if you'd hire these volunteers, it wouldn't cost us any property tax money, and we've got these levy limits and we just can't afford to give these people representation. And that's where the whole problem came. There were people trying to...the last thing in the world was what the interest of the child was. It was trying to save money from the county board area. And that has now been worked where you're going to get the representation that they need in court, but you're also going to have these CASAs be able to come in as a friend of the court and do some of the issues that need to be done that people can't afford or they don't have time to And I just want to make sure Senator Pedersen understands. there is other things out there now that can be accessed to be used, and you still will have decent representation. issue won't be, does it save property tax or not, and how do I save money. The issue is going to be, do the children get And I would yield my time back. Thank decent representation. you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Is there anything further to be said on the advancement of LB 1167? Seeing no lights, the motion before the body, as I recall, is to advance LB 1167 to E & R for engrossing. Those who are in favor please say aye, those opposed nay. The bill is advanced. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Smith, LB 1167A. I have no amendments to that bill, Senator.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President, I move the advancement of LB 1167A to E & R for engrossing.